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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TEACHING IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OF ONTARIO

1959

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Teaching in the ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS *of Ontario*

Choosing Your Career

If you expect to graduate in the near future from High School, you should soon be ready to make a most important decision—your choice of a career. The advice of your parents and your guidance counsellors, as well as careful consideration of your own abilities and skills, will help you to decide wisely. Your choice may well determine how you will spend a great deal of your life.

Have you considered the occupation of teaching? No school system can be better than its teachers, and the children of our land deserve the best possible instructors. Here is an opportunity for you to serve your community and your country in the education of its future citizens. If you think you would like to work with young children, to help them to learn, to advise them in growth of character, and to guide them during their years in school, perhaps teaching would be a suitable career for *you*.

This booklet, *A Teaching Career*, is an attempt to provide you with information and help. Read it carefully—study it—think about teaching as a career—ask questions about it. Then, it's up to you!

Opportunities in Teaching

- In September, 1958, there were 33,074 teachers in the elementary schools of Ontario.
- Over 2,000 new teachers were added to the teaching staff last year to take care of increased enrolment of pupils in the schools.
- Some 3,000 new teachers are needed each year to replace those who retire on superannuation or those who withdraw from the profession.
- A continued demand for more teachers is ensured by the increasing population of the Province.
- Supervisors, principals, inspectors, superintendents, and Teachers' College staff members are drawn from the ranks of successful teachers.

A TEACHING CAREER OFFERS YOU . . .

- Immediate and steady employment once you are qualified.
- Interesting work with children.
- Membership in a respected profession.
- Opportunities for self-improvement.
- An opportunity for service.

"The future greatness of any nation lies in the hands of those who teach its youth"

Requirements for Teaching

"They are happy men whose natures sort with their vocations"
—BACON

If your nature sorts best with teaching, you should have little difficulty in answering "yes" to the following questions:

- Do I enjoy the company of children?
- Do I like to study?
- Have I good physical and mental health?
- Have I high ideals and good moral character?
- Have I an enthusiastic and cheerful disposition?
- Can I exercise self-control at all times?
- Have I a sense of humour?
- Can I accept criticism and profit by it?
- Have I a sense of responsibility?
- Do I like to exercise my own initiative?
- Am I trustworthy in all things?

If you have been able to answer "yes" to most of the above questions, a career in teaching may be your goal. Other requirements in brief, are:

(a) standing in eight Grade 13 papers, including at least one English paper, for a one-year course; or a high school graduation diploma of the general course with three options, for a two-year course (in September, 1960, a fourth option will be required for admission);

(b) acceptance by a Teachers' College Committee of Selection;

(c) passing a medical examination given when you enter the College;

(d) a certificate of good character;

(e) Canadian or British citizenship.

For additional information regarding standing accepted as equivalent to Grade 13 standing and about the medical examination, see pages 15 and 17.

The Teacher's Task

A teacher has many and varied tasks—helping children to acquire wholesome attitudes, good habits of thinking, useful knowledge, and practical skills. He guides his class through the daily routines of classroom work, teaches lessons, marks and evaluates pupils' work, keeps records, discusses the pupils' problems with their parents, works in close co-operation with principals and supervisors, attends professional meetings, and takes charge of after-school activities. These many duties demand the best that a person can offer.

Every school child is different; each has his own needs, his own interests, and his own capacities. It is the teacher's task to meet those needs and interests and so satisfy those capacities that the child may develop "in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man".

In actual classroom work the teacher spends from 25 to 30 hours each week working directly with his pupils. Outside activities in preparing class work, evaluating pupil progress, and helping with student activities may take another 10 to 15 hours. From September to June of each school year, a teacher's regular work averages about 200 days. The rest of the time a teacher may spend attending summer courses or university summer schools, relaxing, or travelling.

If you decide to become a teacher, you will find many rich rewards. There are the satisfactions of working with children, watching your pupils progress through school and life, and helping young people to strengthen attitudes and develop positive character. Henry Brooks Adams summed it up when he said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

Salary, Tenure, Leave, Retirement, Bursaries and Loans

WHAT SALARY WILL A TEACHER RECEIVE?

As individual school boards fix salary payments for schools under their jurisdiction, teachers' salaries vary from community to community. In the first year of teaching, the salary will probably be from $2600 to $3000 or better. Teachers with experience and improved qualifications can earn from $5000 to $6000 or more per annum.

HOW SECURE IS A TEACHER'S POSITION?

Security of tenure is assured by a contract between a teacher and a school board and, in most schools, progress to higher salaries is outlined by an agreed schedule of annual increases. All teachers become members of the Ontario Teachers' Federation which, among other objectives, seeks to promote and advance the interests of teachers and to secure conditions which will make possible the best professional service.

WHAT LEAVE DOES A TEACHER GET?

School law protects teachers from loss of salary through illness for 20 school days in each year. Some school boards have cumulative sick-leave plans which protect teachers from loss during a longer period if they have not used up the sick-leave allowance in previous years. Teachers have vacation months in July and August and are on holiday leave for approximately one week at Christmas and one week at Easter.

WHAT SUPERANNUATION WILL A TEACHER RECEIVE?

Every teacher pays 6% of his salary into a Teachers' Superannuation Fund to which the Provincial Government also makes contributions. Money paid into the fund by a teacher is returned to him if he leaves teaching before being superannuated. There are several types of pension benefits, some of which are more fully outlined on page 16.

WHAT WILL A COURSE AT TEACHERS' COLLEGE COST?

No tuition fees are charged at Teachers' College. A fee of $3.00 is required for a medical examination during the opening days of the course. If an applicant is rejected as a result of the medical examination, this fee is refunded. The cost of text-books, notebooks, and supplies should not exceed $50.00 for the year. Students' organizations usually collect fees to defray the cost of extra-curricular activities, but the total for these purposes is not likely to exceed $10.00. If you do not live in a city where a Teachers' College is located, you will have the added expense of room and board.

WHAT FINANCIAL AID MAY I OBTAIN?

Provincial Student-Aid Bursaries, Dominion-Provincial Student-Aid Bursaries, and Provincial Student-Aid Loans are available to Teachers' College students who meet the conditions of award. Full information regarding bursaries is given in Circular 115, and regarding loans in Circular 121. Copies of these circulars may be obtained from the Deputy Minister of Education, Parliament Buildings, Toronto 2, Ontario, or from the principals of the Teachers' Colleges.

The O.E.A. Elementary Teachers' Loan Fund provides a limited number of interest-free loans to students enrolled at the Hamilton, Lakeshore, London, North Bay, Ottawa, Peterborough, Stratford, and Toronto Teachers' Colleges. Information regarding these loans is available from the Deputy Minister of Education or from the principals of the Teachers' Colleges.

A SCIENCE PROJECT

A CLASS IN NATURAL SCIENCE

AN ART CLASS

LEAVING FOR A TEACHING ASSIGNMENT

A STUDENT TEACHER AT WORK IN A RURAL SCHOOL

OBSERVING A TEACHER AT WORK

IN THE LIBRARY

A COLLEGE TEAM

Summer Courses

For an ambitious teacher, the summer vacation period provides opportunities for further study. There are two roads onward for the elementary school teacher, (1) the university route leading to an Arts degree, and (2) summer courses operated by the Ontario Department of Education.

UNIVERSITY STUDY

The universities of the Province offer teachers an opportunity to qualify for degrees through extra-mural study and attendance at summer school sessions. Promotion to a principal's position or to a supervisory post usually requires a degree, as does the position of a teacher in the secondary schools. Teachers with a B.A. degree are also qualified to take post-graduate courses at the Ontario College of Education including studies leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Education, Master of Education, and Doctor of Education.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUMMER COURSES

Summer courses are conducted by the Ontario Department of Education for the preparation of teachers of certain subjects or classes. These courses do not lead to degrees, but they are sometimes recognized by school boards by salary increases or by special appointment or promotion. Many of the courses offer specialist standing in various subjects of the elementary school programme. Summer courses are offered in the following fields:

- Agriculture
- Art
- Audio-Visual Aids
- Commercial subjects
- Guidance
- Home Economics
- Auxiliary Education
- Industrial Arts
- Music
- Physical and Health Education
- Primary Methods
- Junior Education
- Intermediate Education
- Principals' Leadership

The Education of a Teacher

What are the courses at a Teachers' College like? The work falls naturally into two divisions: (1) the study of teaching methods, together with related academic work, and (2) observation and practice teaching.

In all courses at the College, educational psychology, which includes child study, mental health, and general methodology, receives attention along with school management, which concerns the business affairs of the school and classroom. Each subject of the elementary school curriculum is reviewed from the viewpoint of the teacher to show how the subject may best be presented to children. In the Two-Year Course there are certain additional subjects, including the academic study of English, Geography, and History.

Teachers, like other people, learn by doing, and opportunities are given early in the first term for student teachers to observe regular classroom teachers at work in the schools. Practice teaching begins early in the first term, and consists of five orientation lessons, one each week for five weeks, and—distributed throughout the year—approximately eight weeks of continuous classroom experience. The continuous teaching programme permits a student-teacher, in partnership with a fellow student, to work under specially chosen teachers in the urban and rural schools of the College district.

All Teachers' Colleges have interesting extra-curricular activities. There are musical evenings, athletic nights, inter-college meets, excursions, and informal and formal parties.

TEACHING CERTIFICATES

Students in each of the College courses who pass in practice teaching and in the written examinations at the end of their College course will receive an Interim Elementary-School Teacher's Certificate. This certificate will be made permanent on the recommendation of the school inspector concerned when the teacher has completed two years of successful teaching in the public or separate schools of the Province of Ontario.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

Applicants for admission to the University of Ottawa Teachers' College for preparation as teachers for schools in which French is a subject of instruction with the approval of the Minister, should write to the Deputy Minister of Education, Parliament Buildings, Toronto 2, for information regarding admission to this College. For further information see page 15 of this booklet.

PRIMARY SCHOOL SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE COURSE

Girls who wish to specialize in the work of junior or senior kindergartens, or the primary grades, may take the Primary School Specialist Certificate Course at Toronto Teachers' College. Applicants for this course must hold:

(a) an Elementary-School Teachers' Certificate

or

a university degree approved by the Minister of Education;

(b) proficiency at the piano satisfactory to the Master in Music at Toronto Teachers' College. (The approximate level of proficiency is Grade IX at the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto.)

For further information regarding this course, write to the Principal, Toronto Teachers' College, 951 Carlaw Avenue, Toronto 6, Ontario.

COMPLETING YEAR OF THE IN-SERVICE COURSE

The Completing Year of the In-service Course is offered to students who have attended two Pre-Teachers'-College Summer Courses and who have taught successfully on Temporary Certificates in the public or separate schools of Ontario for two years.

If you decide to enrol at a Teachers' College

- Inform the Principal of your High School of your interest in applying for admission to a Teachers' College. If you are not attending high school, write to the Principal of the Teachers' College in your district.
- About July 15, write to the Deputy Minister of Education, Parliament Buildings, Toronto 2, Ontario, asking for an application form for admission to Teachers' College if you have not already received a form on the occasion of your interview with the Teachers' College Selection Committee.
- Send the completed application form to the Deputy Minister of Education, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario before August 23. Enclose with it the following:

  Proof of age
  Character certificate
  Evidence of academic standing

  Your application is not completed until you have supplied all of these.

  If you fail in any secondary school examination and are appealing the result, apply for admission without waiting for the result of your appeal. Your application will receive attention when your appeal is settled.
- Students are required to attend the Teachers' College in their own district unless proof is submitted with an application that it is to their financial advantage to attend in a different centre. Colleges are located in Hamilton, London, North Bay, Ottawa, Peterborough, Stratford and Toronto. A new Teachers' College, to be known as the Lakeshore Teachers' College is scheduled to open in New Toronto in September, 1959.
- About July 15, write to the Principal of the Teachers' College in your district and ask for a list of approved boarding houses if you must live away from home while you attend College.
- In due time you will receive an admission card to the Teachers' College to which you have been assigned. TAKE THE CARD WITH YOU ON OPENING DAY, the second Tuesday in September.

Appendix

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR ONE-YEAR COURSE

The academic requirement for admission to the One-year Course leading to an Interim Elementary-School Teacher's Certificate is standing in eight Grade 13 papers, one of which shall be English Literature or English Composition; *or* a degree approved by the Minister of Education, from a university in the Commonwealth of Nations.

In lieu of the Grade 13 standing outlined above, an applicant may forward evidence of successful completion of any *one* of the following:

(i) the Preliminary Year at Assumption University of Windsor;

(ii) the First Year at Carleton University;

(iii) the Preliminary Year at McMaster University;

(iv) the First Year at the University of Ottawa, provided that the course included English 13 or English 10;

(v) the First Year at the University of Sudbury, if the course included English 128;

(vi) the First Year at the University of Western Ontario;

(vii) the Two-year Course in Pre-School Education at the Ryerson Institute of Technology;

(viii) the Two-year Course in Home Economics at the Ryerson Institute of Technology.

(ix) the Two-year Course in "Art Education for Prospective Teachers" at the Ontario College of Art. (This Two-year Course at O.C.A. will not be offered after June, 1959.)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA TEACHERS' COLLEGE

1. Course leading to the Interim Second Class Certificate

For admission in September, 1959, to the One-year Course leading to the Interim Second Class Certificate an applicant will be required to submit evidence that he holds the Secondary

School Graduation Diploma of the General Course with at least three options, one of which shall be French Literature and French Composition.

2. Course leading to the Deferred Interim Elementary-School Teacher's Certificate at the University of Ottawa Teachers' College

For admission to the One-year Course leading to the Deferred Interim Elementary-School Teacher's Certificate an applicant will be required to submit evidence that he holds standing in five Grade 13 papers, one of which shall be either English Literature or English Composition, and a second shall be either French Literature or French Composition.

3. Course leading to the Interim Elementary-School Teacher's Certificate at the University of Ottawa Teachers' College

For admission to the One-year Course leading to the Interim Elementary-School Teacher's Certificate an applicant will be required to submit evidence that he holds standing in eight Grade 13 papers, one of which shall be either English Literature or English Composition, and a second shall be either French Literature or French Composition.

An applicant may submit, in lieu of the Grade 13 standing outlined for this course, evidence of successful completion of the First Year at the University of Ottawa provided that the course includes English 1, 1a, 1b, and Français 1, or evidence of successful completion of the First Year at the University of Sudbury provided that the course includes English 1 and Français 1.

SUPERANNUATION FUND

As noted on page 5, every public or separate school teacher in Ontario pays 6% of his salary into a superannuation fund which also receives contributions from the Government of Ontario. Full pensions are granted to teachers who complete forty years of service at any age, or who have taught thirty-

five years and have reached the age of sixty-two years. Pensions of lesser amount are payable to teachers with from thirty to thirty-five years of teaching experience, and also to teachers of at least sixty-two years of age who have twenty-five years of teaching experience, provided that five of these years have been taught after the age of fifty-five. The amount of the annual pension depends on the number of years of contribution and on the average salary of the last ten years of teaching. Teachers who are incapacitated by illness after at least fifteen years of service may also qualify for a pension under certain conditions.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

With the exception of students in the completing year of the In-service Course, and of those enrolled in the Second Year of the Two-year Course, each applicant for admission to a Teachers' College must take a medical examination during the opening days of the course. The medical examination fee is $3.00. Students who pass the examination are classified as acceptable for admission to the teaching profession in so far as their health status is concerned. Where the medical report discloses conditions that may not, at the time, warrant exclusion but that may in future interfere with the person's teaching career, the student is permitted to continue his course, provided that he signs a waiver of disability privileges under the Teachers' Superannuation Act. The few candidates each year who fail to pass the medical examination are required to withdraw from the course. If you have reason to think that you may not pass the medical examination, you may apply for an advance medical examination on or after June 1st preceding the opening of the Teachers' Colleges, by writing to the Deputy Minister of Education and requesting this privilege. In doing so, you should explain your reason and enclose an advance medical examination fee of $3.75 made payable to the Treasurer, Province of Ontario.

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1959